

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 15, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 3, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1533

Introduced by Senator Scott

February 23, 2006

An act to amend Sections 44392 and 44393 of the Education Code, relating to paraprofessional teachers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1533, as amended, Scott. Paraprofessional teachers.

(1) Existing law establishes the California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program for the purpose of recruiting paraprofessionals to participate in a program designed to encourage them to enroll in teacher training programs and to provide instructional service as teachers in the public schools. Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation with certain other educational entities, to select, pursuant to specified criteria, 24 or more school districts or county offices of education representing rural, urban, and suburban areas that apply to participate in the program.

This bill would modify the criteria for selection of applicant school districts and county offices of education by requiring consideration of the extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment includes candidate selection criteria based, in part, on demonstrated classroom performance and success in professional development activities provided by the applicant.

(2) *Existing law requires an applicant school district or county office of education to recruit and organize groups, known as cohorts,*

of 10 to 30 paraprofessionals and requires all of the members of a cohort to enroll in training programs offered at the same campus.

This bill would eliminate the minimum number of members for a cohort and would delete the requirement that members of a cohort enroll in programs offered at the same campus.

~~(2)~~

(3) Existing law requires a school district or county office of education to require a person participating in the program to commit to accomplishing certain requirements relating to obtaining a teaching credential and employment as a teacher in the district.

This bill would add to the specified requirements that the participant obtain a certificate of clearance from the commission under certain provisions of existing law before enrollment.

~~(3)~~

(4) Existing law requires a program participant to repay assistance received under the program if he or she fails to accomplish the specified requirements.

This bill would, subject to the approval of the commission, authorize a school district or a county office of education to discharge the repayment obligation of a participant for good cause, including situations beyond a participant's control, such as illness or family care needs.

The bill would, subject to approval of the commission, authorize a school district or county office of education to determine that service to the school district or county office of education in a capacity other than as a classroom teacher complies with a specified requirement relating to employment as a teacher in the district, if a participant demonstrates to the school district or the county office of education that a good faith effort has been made to complete the teacher preparation program, and the participant has been unable to meet specified credentialing requirements, or, if in the judgment of the district or county office of education, the candidate is unable to complete the credential requirements in a timely manner.

The bill would require that repayments collected by school districts and county offices of education to be reported to the commission and under the program these funds would revert to the Proposition 98 Reversion Account on an annual basis.

~~(4)~~

(5) Existing law requires the commission to contract with an independent evaluator with a proven record of experience in assessing

career-advancement programs or teacher training programs to determine the success of the training program.

This bill would specify that this requirement is contingent upon funding being provided therefor in the Budget Act of 2008.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44392 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:

3 44392. For the purposes of this article, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the
5 following meanings:

6 (a) “Applicant” means a school district or county office of
7 education applying for program funds under the California
8 School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program established
9 under Section 44393.

10 (b) “Institutions of higher education” means the California
11 Community Colleges, the California State University, the
12 University of California, and private institutions of higher
13 education that offer an accredited teacher training program.

14 (c) “Program” means the California School Paraprofessional
15 Teacher Training Program established pursuant to Section 44393.

16 (d) “Teaching paraprofessional” means the following job
17 classifications: educational aide, instructional aide, special
18 education aide, special education assistant, teacher associate,
19 teacher assistant, teacher aide, pupil service aide, library aide,
20 child development aide, child development assistant, and
21 physical education aide.

22 (e) “Teacher training program” means any undergraduate or
23 graduate program of instruction conducted by a campus of an
24 institution of higher education that includes a developmentally
25 sequenced career ladder to provide instruction, coursework, and
26 clearly defined tasks for each level of the ladder, and that is
27 designed to qualify students enrolled in the program for a
28 teaching credential authorizing instruction in kindergarten and
29 grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

30 SEC. 2. Section 44393 of the Education Code is amended to
31 read:

1 44393. (a) The California School Paraprofessional Teacher
2 Training Program is hereby established for the purpose of
3 recruiting paraprofessionals to participate in a program designed
4 to encourage them to enroll in teacher training programs and to
5 provide instructional service as teachers in the public schools.

6 (b) The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation
7 with the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the
8 Chancellor of the California State University, the President of the
9 University of California, the chancellors of private institutions of
10 higher education that offer accredited teacher training programs,
11 and representatives of certificated and classified employee
12 organizations, shall select 24 or more school districts or county
13 offices of education representing rural, urban, and suburban areas
14 that apply to participate in the program. The commission shall
15 ensure that, at a minimum, a total of 600 school
16 paraprofessionals are recruited from among the 24 or more
17 participating school districts or county offices of education. The
18 criteria adopted by the commission for the selection of school
19 districts or county offices of education to participate in the
20 program shall include all of the following:

21 (1) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the
22 capacity and willingness to accommodate the participation of
23 school paraprofessionals in teacher training programs conducted
24 at institutions of higher education.

25 (2) The extent to which the applicant's plan for the
26 implementation of its recruitment program involves the active
27 participation of one or more local campuses of the participating
28 institutions of higher education in the development of
29 coursework and teaching programs for participating school
30 paraprofessionals. Each selected applicant shall be required to
31 enter into a written articulation agreement with the participating
32 campuses of the institutions of higher education.

33 (3) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment
34 attempts to meet the demand for bilingual-crosscultural teachers.

35 (4) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment
36 attempts to meet the demand for multiple subject credentialed
37 teachers interested in teaching kindergarten or any of grades 1 to
38 3, inclusive. For purposes of this paragraph, each
39 paraprofessional selected to participate shall have completed at
40 least two years of undergraduate college or university

1 coursework and shall have demonstrated an interest in obtaining
2 a multiple subject teaching credential for teaching kindergarten
3 or any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

4 (5) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment
5 attempts to meet the demand for special education teachers.

6 (6) The extent to which a developmentally sequenced series of
7 job descriptions leads from an entry-level school
8 paraprofessional position to an entry-level teaching position in
9 that school district or county office of education.

10 (7) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment
11 attempts to meet its specific teacher needs.

12 (8) The extent to which the applicant's plan for
13 implementation of its recruitment program involves participation
14 in a district internship program pursuant to Sections 44325,
15 44326, 44327, 44328, and 44830.3 or a university internship
16 program pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 44450)
17 of Chapter 3.

18 (9) The extent to which the applicant's plan for recruitment
19 includes candidate selection criteria based, in part, on
20 demonstrated classroom performance and success in professional
21 development activities provided by the applicant.

22 (c) Each selected applicant shall provide information and
23 assistance to each school paraprofessional it recruits under the
24 program regarding admission to a teacher training program.

25 (d) (1) The applicant shall recruit and organize groups, or
26 "cohorts," of school paraprofessionals, of no more than 30, ~~and~~
27 ~~no less than 10,~~ in each cohort. Cohorts shall be organized to
28 consist of school paraprofessionals having approximately equal
29 academic experience and qualifications, as determined by the
30 school district or county office of education. To the extent
31 possible, the members of each cohort shall proceed through the
32 same subject matter and credential programs. The members of
33 each cohort ~~shall enroll in the same campus and~~ shall be provided
34 appropriate support and information throughout the course of
35 their studies by the applicant.

36 (2) Each applicant shall certify that it has received a
37 commitment from each member of a cohort that he or she will
38 accomplish all of the following:

39 (A) Obtain a certificate of clearance from the commission
40 under Sections 44339, 44340, and 44341 before enrollment.

1 (B) Graduate from an institution of higher education under the
2 program with a bachelor's degree.

3 (C) Complete all of the requirements for and obtain a multiple
4 subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching
5 credential.

6 (D) Complete one school year of classroom instruction in the
7 district or county office of education for each full year or
8 full-year equivalent of coursework for which he or she receives
9 assistance for books, fees, and tuition while attending an
10 institution of higher education under the program.

11 (3) To the extent that any participant does not fulfill his or her
12 obligations, as set forth in paragraph (2), the participant shall be
13 required to repay the assistance to the program sponsor. If a
14 participant is laid off, the participant shall not be required to
15 repay the assistance until the participant is offered reemployment
16 and has an opportunity to fulfill his or her obligations under this
17 section. With the approval of the commission, a school district
18 may discharge the repayment obligations of a participant for
19 good cause, including, but not limited to, situations beyond a
20 participant's control, such as illness or family care needs.

21 (4) With approval of the commission, a school district or
22 county office of education may determine that service to the
23 school district or county office of education in a capacity other
24 than as a multiple subject, single subject, or special education
25 classroom teacher complies with the requirements of
26 subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2), if a participant demonstrates
27 to the school district or the county office of education that a good
28 faith effort has been made to complete the teacher preparation
29 program, and the participant has been unable to meet specified
30 credentialing requirements, or if in the judgment of the district or
31 county office of education, the candidate is unable to complete
32 the credential requirements in a timely manner.

33 (5) Repayments collected by school districts and county
34 offices of education shall be reported to the commission and shall
35 revert to the Proposition 98 Reversion Account on an annual
36 basis.

37 (e) Contingent upon funding being provided for this purpose
38 in the Budget Act of 2008, the commission shall contract with an
39 independent evaluator with a proven record of experience in
40 assessing career-advancement programs or teacher training

1 programs to determine the success of the recruitment programs
2 established pursuant to subdivision (b). The evaluation shall
3 include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

4 (1) The total cost per person participating in the program who
5 successfully obtains a teaching credential, based upon all state,
6 local, federal, and other sources of funding.

7 (2) The economic status of persons participating in the
8 program.

9 (3) A description of financial and other resources made
10 available to each recruitment program by participating school
11 districts or county offices of education, institutions of higher
12 education, and other participating organizations.

13 (4) The extent to which pupil performance on standardized
14 achievement tests has improved in classes taught by teachers who
15 have successfully completed the program, in comparison to
16 classes taught by other teachers who have equivalent teaching
17 experience.

18 (5) The extent to which pupil dropout rates and other measures
19 of delinquency have improved in classes taught by teachers who
20 have successfully completed the program.

21 (6) The extent to which teachers who have successfully
22 completed the program remain in the communities in which they
23 reside and in which they teach.

24 (7) The attrition rate of teachers who have successfully
25 completed the program.

26 (f) Each selected school district or county office of education
27 shall report to the commission regarding the progress of each
28 cohort of school paraprofessionals, and other information
29 regarding its recruitment program as the commission may direct.

30 (g) No later than January 1 of each year, the commission shall
31 report to the Legislature regarding the status of the program,
32 including, but not limited to, the number of school
33 paraprofessionals recruited, the academic progress of the school
34 paraprofessionals recruited, the number of school
35 paraprofessionals recruited who are subsequently employed as
36 teachers in the public schools, the degree to which the program
37 meets the demand for bilingual and special education teachers as
38 well as meeting teacher needs in shortage areas as determined by
39 the school district or county office of education, the degree to
40 which the program or similar programs can meet that demand if

1 properly funded and executed, and other effects upon the
2 operation of the public schools.

3 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that each fiscal year,
4 funding for the California School Paraprofessional Teacher
5 Training Program be allocated to the Commission on Teacher
6 Credentialing for grants to school districts pursuant to this
7 section. In no case shall grants to any school district exceed the
8 equivalent of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) annually per
9 paraprofessional in the program. Funding for grants to school
10 districts pursuant to this subdivision; shall be contingent upon an
11 appropriation in the annual Budget Act.